

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 6 and 9-21 are pending in this application, of which claims 15-21 are withdrawn as being directed to a non-elected invention. Claims 1, 15 and 19 are the independent claims.

Applicant respectfully notes the present action indicates that the drawings have been accepted by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 6, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 1 544 787 A1 to Reignoux ("the Reignoux reference"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the reasons discussed below.

Applicant submits that this application is the national phase under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of PCT International Application No. PCT/IB2004/050645 which has an International filing date of May 12, 2004. Therefore, the earliest effective U.S. filing date for this application is May 12, 2004, which predates Reignoux, published on June 22, 2005, and thus after the effective U.S. filing date of May 12, 2004.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Reignoux is not a proper reference against this application, and all rejections based thereon should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the pending objections and rejections has been addressed and overcome, placing the present application in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested. Further, the above remarks demonstrate the failings of the outstanding rejections, and are sufficient to overcome the rejections. However, these remarks are not intended to, nor need they, comprehensively address each and every reason for the patentability of the claimed subject matter over the applied prior art. Accordingly, Applicant does not contend that the claims are patentable solely on the basis of the particular claim elements discussed above.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned, at the telephone number below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By

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